

PE1853/B

Petitioner submission of 16 April 2021

Despite the various mitigation measures which have been put in place over the past ten years or so, the situation at The Rest and be Thankful has continued to deteriorate culminating in approximately 280 days of disruption during 2020 – 2021. Transport Scotland have recently indicated that there is currently at least over 100,000 tonnes of unstable material on the hillside which in the event it is displaced, could potentially seriously impact on the current fragile situation at The Rest and be Thankful. Such impact would seriously exacerbate the already challenging and tenuous condition of the main artery to and from Argyll, resulting in further distress and disruption to the local communities and businesses therein.

With the current projected unacceptable timescale for a permanent solution to be put in place, the only way to provide an alternative connection to the Scottish mainland for the long suffering communities of Argyll & Bute is to consider providing a full time ferry service capable of taking passengers and freight with road equivalent tariff (RET) applied to it from Campbeltown to the Scottish mainland. We have discussed the possibility of potential vessels with well-known and reputable ferry consultants who have reliably informed us that vessels are currently available out with the CalMac fleet which could potentially be procured to meet the requirements of providing a lifeline service.

Having submitted two previous petitions to the Committee requesting a permanent solution to The Rest and Be Thankful, we respectfully request that you consider this petition which has the full backing of Argyll & Bute Council, our MP and a number of MSPs across the political spectrum favourably.